Act Now to Protect Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund

On the Tuesday May 26 House Calendar, the state House will consider HB 2004 (Ortitay-R-Allegheny), a bill that will PERMANENTLY alter the current Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund’s structure, authoring the General Assembly to annually allocate funds.

10,000 Friends of PA joins our colleagues at Preservation PA and PA Land Trust Association, among many more, in strongly opposing HB 2004. Click here to view and share our opposition letter.

We need your help today to protect and save the Keystone Fund. This is a restricted fund that should not be subject to the politics of the General Assembly.

Contact Your State House Representative Now to Oppose HB 2004

NOW is the time to reach out to your state House legislator and urge them to vote "NO" on HB 2004 to preserve Keystone grant funding through crucial investments in Historic Preservation, Conservation, Recreation, State Parks and Forests, Libraries, and Zoos, among others across Pennsylvania. Now, more than ever, these programs cannot afford to be cut.

The Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund Act (Act 50 of 1993) established the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund (fund), which provides funding for grant programs for the acquisition, improvement and expansion of parks, recreation facilities, trails, historic sites, zoos, public libraries, nature preserves and wildlife habitats. The money in the fund, which comes from a monthly deposit of 15% of the Realty Transfer Tax collections, is distributed to the grant programs according to an allocation schedule.

Since its 1993 establishment, with an overwhelmingly approved voter referendum, a 48-0 Senate vote and 196-3 House vote, the Keystone Fund has effectively and efficiently built lasting legacies in our communities.

The Keystone Fund is a valuable tool for our state and local economies that leverages private investment, often far more than the 50% requirement, and supports jobs in planning, engineering, construction, maintenance, and program delivery, among others. Keystone investments generate hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity, ranging from these jobs to recreational purchases to improved property values. In natural goods and services alone, every dollar invested returns more than $7 in economic value.

Please contact your legislator TODAY to protect and save the Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund.

More Information:

Keystone Fund Website: https://keystonefund.org/

HB 2004 History and Full Text of Bill

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Economic benefits are documented in the economic impact studies housed at:

Conservationtools.org

Savingplaces.org

Thank you for joining 10,000 Friends in this important effort and protecting the future of valued public resources and sites.
In partnership,
Stacie
Stacie Reidenbaugh, President & CEO
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Building healthy, vibrant and resilient communities throughout Pennsylvania
10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania is the nonpartisan statewide advocate for community resilience and smart growth, responsible and efficient land use, and partner for great places to live and work. We work with citizens, organizations, and public officials to create balanced land use, infrastructure, development, and governance policies and projects that strengthen our economy, protect our resources, and build healthy and walkable communities for all.